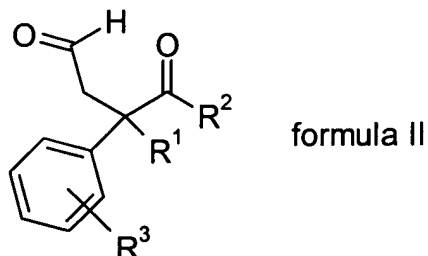


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula II:

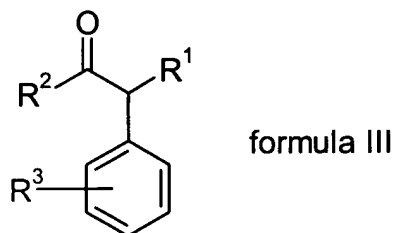


wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or (C₁-C₆)alkylthio;

R^2 is phenyl, naphthyl or (C₃-C₁₂)cycloalkyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylhalo, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkenyl or halo, comprising, treating a compound of formula III

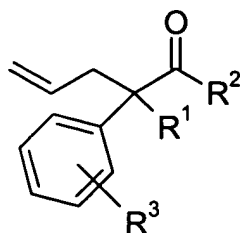


wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are described as above, with a base and a compound of formula IV:



wherein X is a leaving group, to provide the compound of formula V

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formula V

and oxidizing the compound of formula V with an oxidizing agent to provide the compound of formula II.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein
R¹ is CH₃;
R² is cyclohexyl; and
R³ is hydrogen.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 2 wherein
X is Br or Cl.

4. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3 wherein the oxidizing agent
is ozone.

5. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 wherein the base is
potassium tert-butoxide.

6-7. (Canceled)